



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - July 25, 2003**

- ***In the West***, isolated showers are providing localized relief from hot, dry conditions. Nevertheless, rangelands and rain-fed crops across the majority of the region remain stressed by a prolonged spell of hot, mostly dry weather.
- ***On the Plains***, slightly cooler air and isolated showers are overspreading ***Montana*** and the ***Dakotas***, following recent record-breaking heat. Elsewhere on the ***Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 95 to 105 degrees F, a fourth consecutive week of hot, drier-than-normal weather is maintaining stress on pastures and summer crops.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, hot weather is expanding into ***westernmost portions of the region (mostly south and west of the Missouri River)***, increasing stress on reproductive corn and soybeans. However, warm, dry weather favors summer crop development across the remainder of the ***Corn Belt***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 85 to 95 degrees F.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather is easing wet conditions in much of the ***southern Atlantic region***, although scattered showers linger across ***Florida***. Warm weather favors summer crop development and maturation elsewhere in the ***South***, although unfavorable dryness is beginning to expand eastward across ***Arkansas*** and ***northeastern Texas***.

**Outlook:** A high-pressure system will provide warm, mostly dry weather to the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, although scattered afternoon thunderstorms are possible across the ***Southeastern and Gulf Coast States***. In the ***central U.S.***, hot, mostly dry conditions will persist on the ***central and southern Plains***, while showers and thunderstorms will develop across the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***. During the latter half of the weekend and early next week, a slow-moving cold front will spark locally heavy rainfall across the ***northern and central Plains and Corn Belt***, while monsoon showers will persist in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 30 - August 3 calls for above-normal temperatures across the ***Rockies and the northern Plains***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected across the ***Corn Belt, southern Plains, and Southeast***. Wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***southern Plains, Gulf Coast States, and along the East Coast***, but below-normal precipitation is expected across the ***Intermountain West, northern Plains, and upper Midwest***.

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